

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 014812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, NAC

SUBJECT: NAC CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) USNATO 164; (B) STATE 10109

1. DEPARTMENT WELCOMES MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIAL NAC SESSIONS IN COMING MONTHS. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED YOUR SUGGESTIONS IN OUR THINKING ON ISSUES THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. THIS MESSAGE CONCERNS ONLY SPECIAL NAC SESSIONS DURING THE TIME LEADING UP TO THE MAY 10-11 MINISTERIAL. WE WILL TURN TO THE QUESTION OF FURTHER NAC CONSULTATIONS IN 1977 AT A LATER DATE.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF CONTINUING THE PROCESS OF NAC CONSULTATIONS WITH OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS
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WE SHOULD AIM FOR AT LEAST TWO SUCH CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NOW AND THE MAY MINISTERIAL. ALLIES IN POLADS HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED, WITH RESERVATION BY THE FRENCH, A NAC MEETING WITH OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS ON CSCE IN APRIL (USNATO 6601) WE BELIEVE A MEETING OF ALLIED POLICY-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN APRIL TO CONSIDER THE WORK OF THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH CSCE EXPERTS MEETING IS A NECESSARY PRELUDE TO A DISCUSSION OF

CSCE AT THE MAY MINISTERIAL, THE LAST BEFORE THE CONVENING

OF THE BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS. WE HAVE INDICATED OUR SUPPORT FOR A NAC MEETING ON CSCE AND YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO AS THE QUESTION OF SUCH A MEETING ARISES.

3. AN ADDITIONAL SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION WOULD PROVIDE A BALANCED PRE-MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION PROGRAM. CONCERNING MISSION SUGGESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SALT AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS, IT DOES NOT NOW APPEAR THAT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL PERMIT AN EARLY BRIEFING ON SALT. EAST-WEST RELATIONS, WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF SPECIAL NAC SESSION ON NOVEMBER 5, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DISCUSSED AT THE MAY MINISTERIAL.

4. AS INDICATED REF B, LUNS' MEMORANDUM ON NAC FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL SUGGESTS SEVERAL ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD DEAL WITH. SOME OF THESE COINCIDE WITH SUBJECTS SUGGESTED BY MISSION FOR SPECIAL NAC MEETINGS. AMONG ITEMS IN USNATO 164, LOS APPEARS TO BE GOOD CANDIDATE FOR CONSULTATION IN LATTER HALF OF MARCH OR EARLY APRIL, FOLLOWING ON EVENSEN MEETING IN GENEVA ON FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 11. US LOS OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT DISCUSSION IN NAC AFTER GENEVA MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL FOR COORDINATING ALLIED VIEWS PRIOR TO THE NEXT UN LOS SESSION COMMENCING MAY 23 IN NEW YORK.

5. WITHIN GUIDELINES IN STATE 209295, YOU SHOULD INVESTIGATE PRIVATELY WITH INTERESTED ALLIES QUESTION OF A
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SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, SEEKING THEIR VIEWS ON LOS CONSULTATION AND ON OTHER SUBJECTS, AND ENCOURAGING ONE OF THEM TO PROPOSE THE MEETING. YOU MAY ALSO RAISE THIS QUESTION PRIVATELY WITH LUNS.

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